

Charter Section 225

Ballot Argument

Transparency in who local government does business with is essential if we are to earn the trust of residents.

The proposed changes to Charter Section 225:

1. Require the “disclosure of the names and identities of all ‘natural persons’ who will receive more than 10% of the contracted amount, or who own more than 10% of the entity contracting with the City,” when:
 - a. The City spends or receives more than an amount set by ordinance.
 - b. The City Council’s approval is required by Charter (e.g. Sections 94, 103, 103.1) or by ordinance.
2. Guarantee the timely sharing of the disclosure information with the City Council when its approval is required to form a contract.
3. Exempt public agencies and publicly traded companies from the disclosure requirements.
4. Provide that “This Section shall not preclude the City from requiring disclosure of any other information from persons or entities contracting with the City.”

In the early Nineties, the City leadership unknowingly, almost entered a real estate deal with an alleged mobster. At the June 1992 election, 86% of the voters added Section 225 to the City Charter to prevent such “near misses” from happening in the future.

Previous city attorneys pointed out flaws in the language so for 26 years enforcement of Section 225 has been inconsistent at best.

The full City Council now unanimously recommends this change to you, the voter.

The proposed revision to Charter Section 225 will enable the City leadership and public to know when they are dealing with bad actors, avoid conflicts of interest and ensure equal opportunity contracting and do what the voters intended in 1992.